

A RESOLUTION to honor Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church
and their pastor, Reverend Alvin O'Neal
Jackson.

WHEREAS, once in a great while there is a special church with a dedicated congregation and an inspiring leader who, through richness of spirit and faith in God, dedicates itself to building a better and brighter world; and

WHEREAS, the congregational family of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church are such people; sagaciously led by Reverend Alvin O'Neal Jackson, this church has utilized their incredible gifts to reach out to those in need of kindness and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, the rich history of this church began when a small but determined and devoted group of disciples of Christ, led by the late Dr. J.E. Walker, sought to establish a church home. The first frame building and parsonage was originally erected in 1888 on Mississippi Boulevard and the church was founded in January, 1921; and

WHEREAS, State Evangelist, Elder W.P. Martin, and Pastor Blair T. Hunt were instrumental in the vibrant history of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church throughout the first part of this century; Elder Hunt fostered the great spiritual, numerical and financial growth of the church for more than fifty years and led the church through two remodelings and construction of a new sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, Elder Lee Edward Koonce followed Elder Hunt and, during his ministry from 1973 to 1978, the church continued to flourish; and

WHEREAS, after Elder Koonce's departure, much prayer and a year long search for a new pastor ended with the employment of an energetic and eager new spiritual leader, Reverend Alvin O'Neal Jackson; and

WHEREAS, under Reverend Jackson's leadership, the first radio ministry was established and weekly Bible Study classes began; he guided the church through a half million dollar restoration program, "Project Resurrection", after a disastrous fire in 1979, and led them through the successful 1.8 million dollar "Claim Our Canaan" campaign to purchase a much needed, larger edifice in 1984; and

WHEREAS, the congregation will forever be indebted to Reverend Jackson for the spiritual growth he has brought Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church through his wise teaching, inspirational preaching, evangelistic efforts and countless contributions; his uncompromising love and stalwart devotion is further evident as he leads the church through their Vision 2000 campaign for continued growth; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that this Assembly honor the church family of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church as they go forward with their spiritual mission "to attract and win members, develop them to Christlike maturity, and empower them for a meaningful ministry in the church and a life mission in the word in order to glorify God"; and

WHEREAS, it is also appropriate that we should honor Reverend Alvin O. Jackson, an outstanding individual called by God to Christian service as he has sought to fulfill the will and purpose of divine love by devoting his life to the pastorate; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we recognize, honor and commend the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church congregation and Reverend Alvin O. Jackson for their long record of glorious service to God and we extend to them our most sincere desire for their continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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